



# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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### County Presents Third Annual Green Leadership Awards

#### Board of Supervisors Recognizes Outstanding "Green Leadership" Projects



On April 26, 2011, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will present its Third Annual Green Leadership Awards recognizing outstanding community energy conservation and environmental efforts.

The awards will be presented at 9:30 a.m. during the Board of Supervisors meeting at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Los Angeles.

Recipients of the Green Leadership Awards are:

- **CHAIR:** Belinda Faustinos, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- **BUSINESS:** Radisson Los Angeles Airport - *Gateway to a Greener L.A.*
- **PUBLIC AGENCY:** Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles *The Growing Experience Urban Farm*

Los Angeles County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich said the Green Leadership Program is important because it promotes awareness and responsibility, shares best practices, and inspires others to follow their leadership. "Many individuals, businesses and public agencies within the County are doing an outstanding job in finding creative ways to change the way they do things to improve air and water quality, and reduce energy consumption. We are proud to honor them with the County's Green Leadership Award."

The Chair's Green Leadership Award was selected for the following accomplishments:

#### **Belinda Faustinos**

##### ***San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy***

Ms. Faustinos environmental experience started with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in 1985. She administered a budget of well over \$200 million in capital outlay funds which were used for the acquisition and improvement of public parkland and educational interpretation programs. As Chief Deputy Executive Officer of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority, she worked on open space policy issues in the Whittier/Puente Hills Corridor.

Ms. Faustinos' leadership and personal commitment to the acquisition, management, protection and habitat restoration of public lands, while providing open space, low impact recreational and educational opportunities, has enhanced the quality of life for all Californians and visitors.

The Los Angeles County Green Leadership award winners were selected for the following accomplishments:

**Radisson Los Angeles Airport**

***Gateway to a Greener LA***

In 2009, the Radisson Los Angeles Airport Hotel set out to “green” their operations. Their intent was to make the LAX corridor the *Gateway to a Greener L.A.* Through their efforts, they became the first Radisson hotel to achieve the Green Seal Certification, a respected independent environmental certifier, ensuring that their green practices met rigorous, science-based criteria.

The Radisson’s “Green Team” developed protocols for enhancing energy, water and waste reduction. They provided employee training, established purchasing policies, and identified marketing and public relations opportunities. As true “green leaders,” they used their experience to help other hotels and businesses by providing workshops, creating a website blog, giving one-on-one support, and launching the *Gateway Green Office Project*, a resource for local businesses. They are a model for other hotels in the Los Angeles County.

**Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles**

***The Growing Experience Urban Farm***

Since July 2010, the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles adopted the *Growing Experience Urban Farm*. This farm makes fresh, sustainably grown produce available to nearly 100 families of the Carmelitos public housing development in the City of Long Beach and surrounding communities. The *Growing Experience Urban Farm* not only provides access to high-quality locally grown fruits and vegetables, but it creates an outdoor urban green space for recreation, education, and a community gathering place. As a “green leader,” they actively involve the community, offering tours to local schools and hands-on training for interested youths.

The agricultural crops are grown using sustainable methods conserving water, energy, and resources. Areas of the farm which are not growing food are landscaped with native and drought-tolerant plants.